Jarvis Street Baptist Church Multicultural Event

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Jarvis Street Baptist Church

- Jarvis Street Baptist Church
- Toronto Baptist Seminary
- Gospel Witness
- Sovereign Grace Fellowship of Canada
- Other
  - Camp Saugeen
  - Canadian Protestant League

Jarvis Street Baptist Church

- Congregation founded in 1818 (1818-1827)
- Masonic Hall on Colborne Street (1827-1832)
- March Street Baptist Church (1832-1848)
- Bond Street Baptist Church (1848-1875)
- Jarvis Street Baptist Church (1875-Present)

Congregation founded in 1818

- City of York 25 years old with 1,000 inhabitants
- Pastor: Alexander Stewart from Scotland
- School House
- Methodist meeting house
- Stewart's home at 76 Yonge Street
- 9 charter members, increase to 20
  - Britain and Ireland
- No minute or roll book

Masonic Hall on Market Lane (1827)

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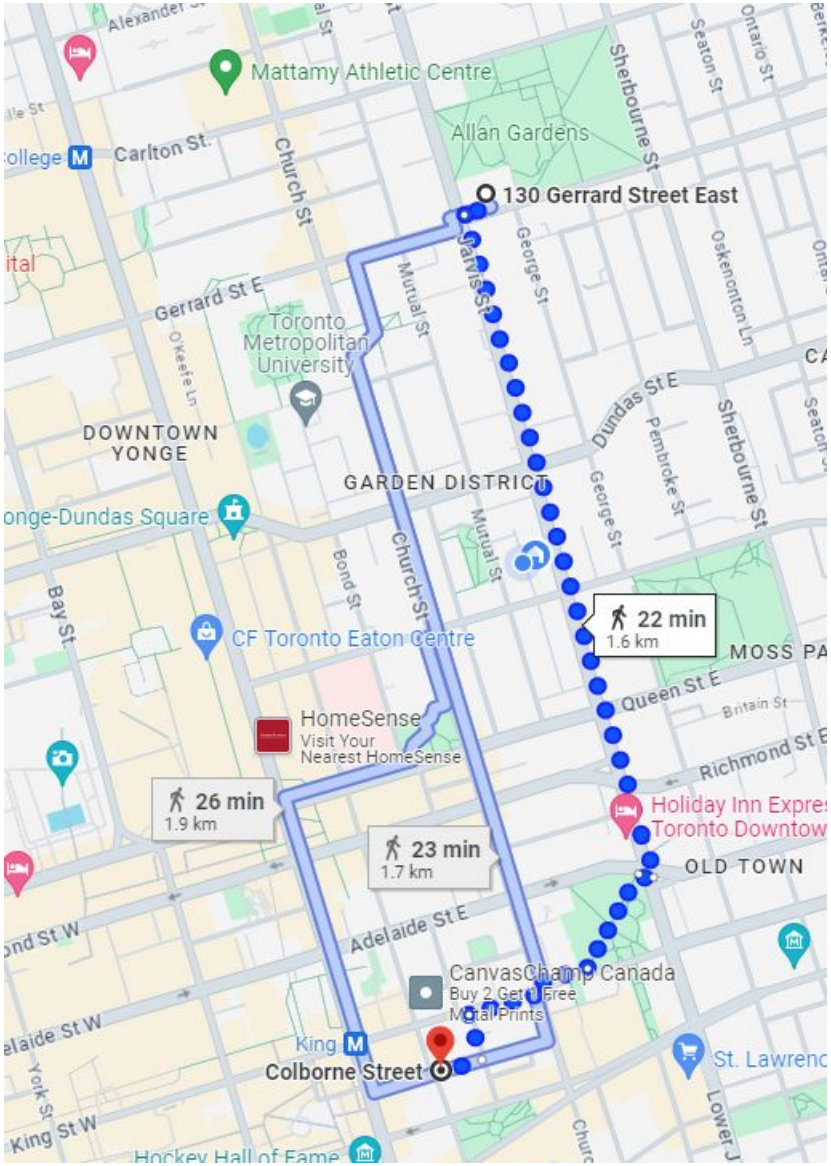
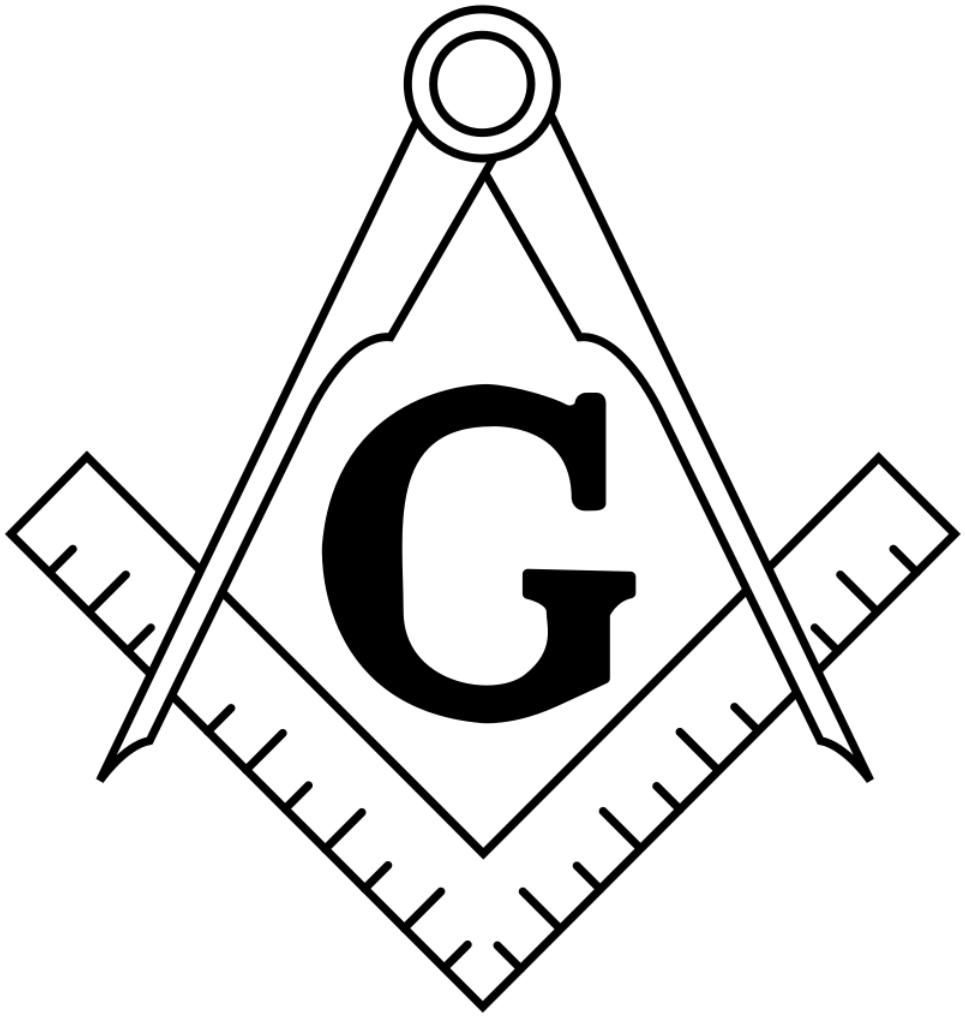


A child was terrified at the sight of the awful G in the midst of the square and compass



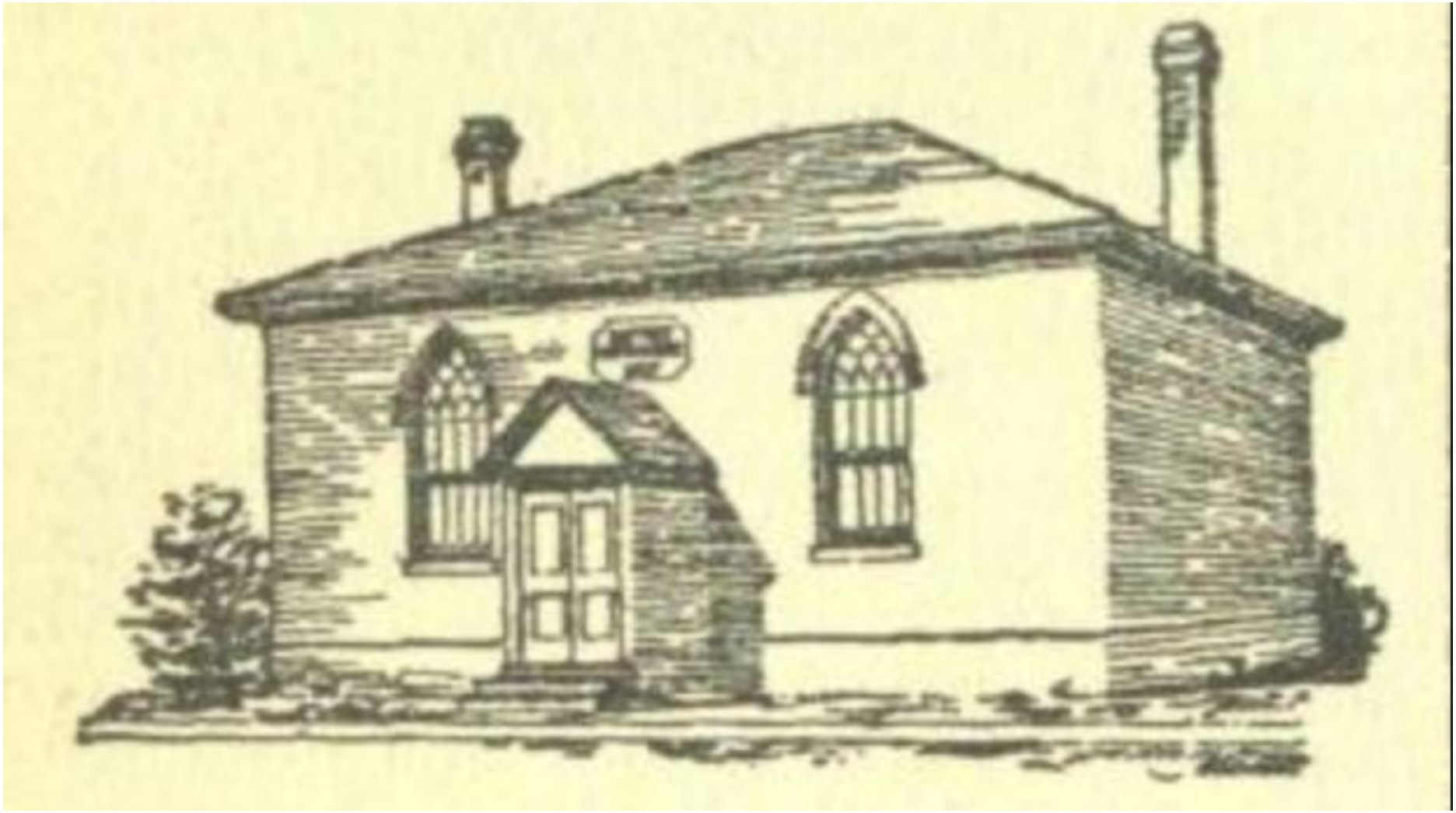
Masonic Hall on Market Lane (1827)

- Church known as Baptist Church of York
- Market Lane now known as Colborne St
- Old St. George's Masonic Lodge, No. 9
- A two-storey frame building on Colborne street
- Upper room
- Rent the lodge room to the Baptist congregation at 7s., 6d. currency per month for the sole use and benefit of a Sunday meeting on the Sabbath days for a period of six months
- The old church records are very meagre, being confined to dry statements of facts or resolutions

Masonic Hall on Market Lane (1827)

- No list of the members has been preserved in the church books, so that it is doubtful whether anyone knows with certainty who were the real constituent members of the church; only a few names appearing regularly in the minutes.
- Pastor and President Alexander Stewart from Scotland
- 6 families
- Baptisms were “weather permitting” (e.g. Lake Ontario)
- First Baptist Church (Toronto) says it started by renting space from the same Masonic Hall in 1827 (Washington Christian, a Virginia born former slave)

March Street Baptist Church (1832-1848)



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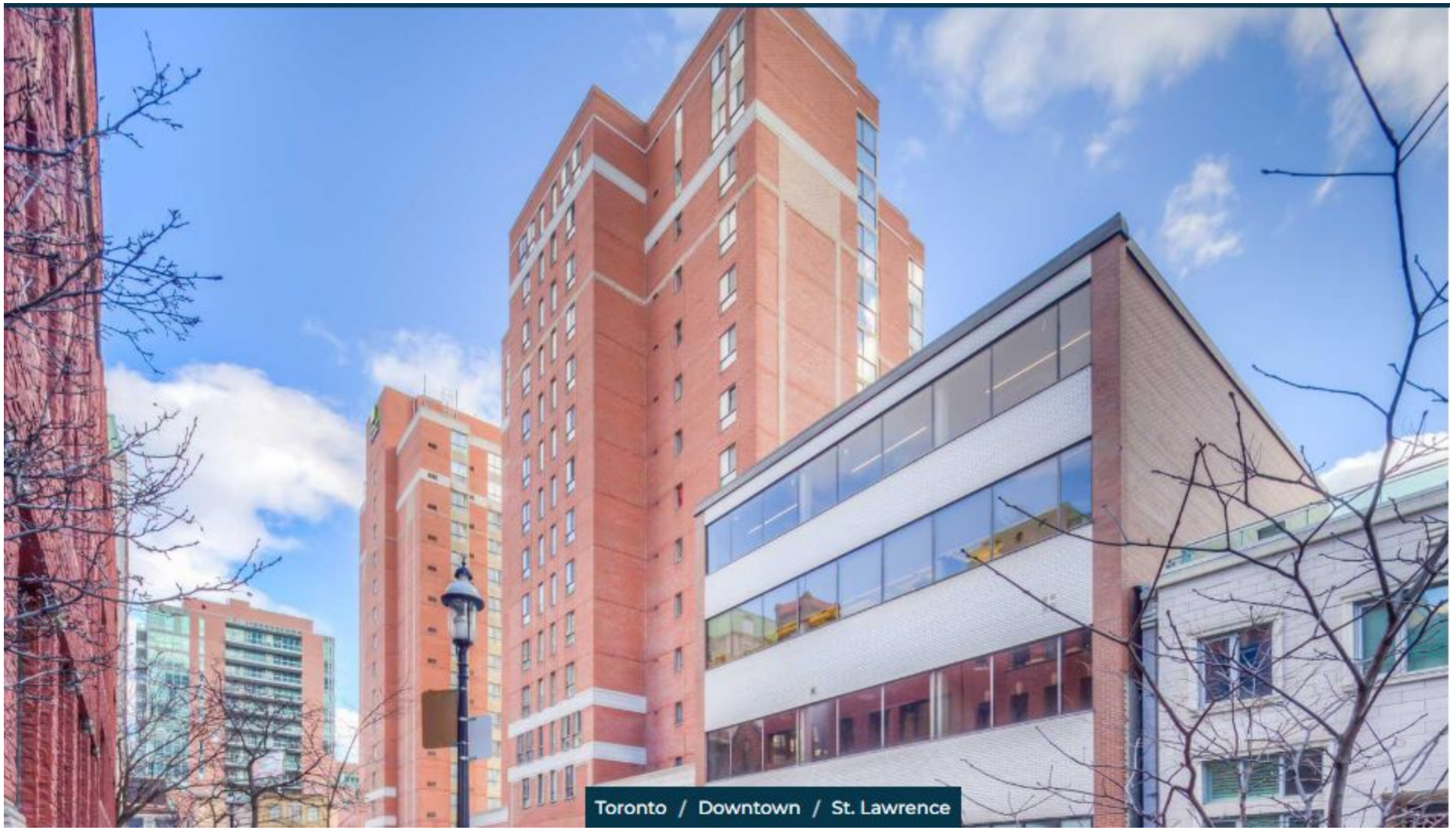

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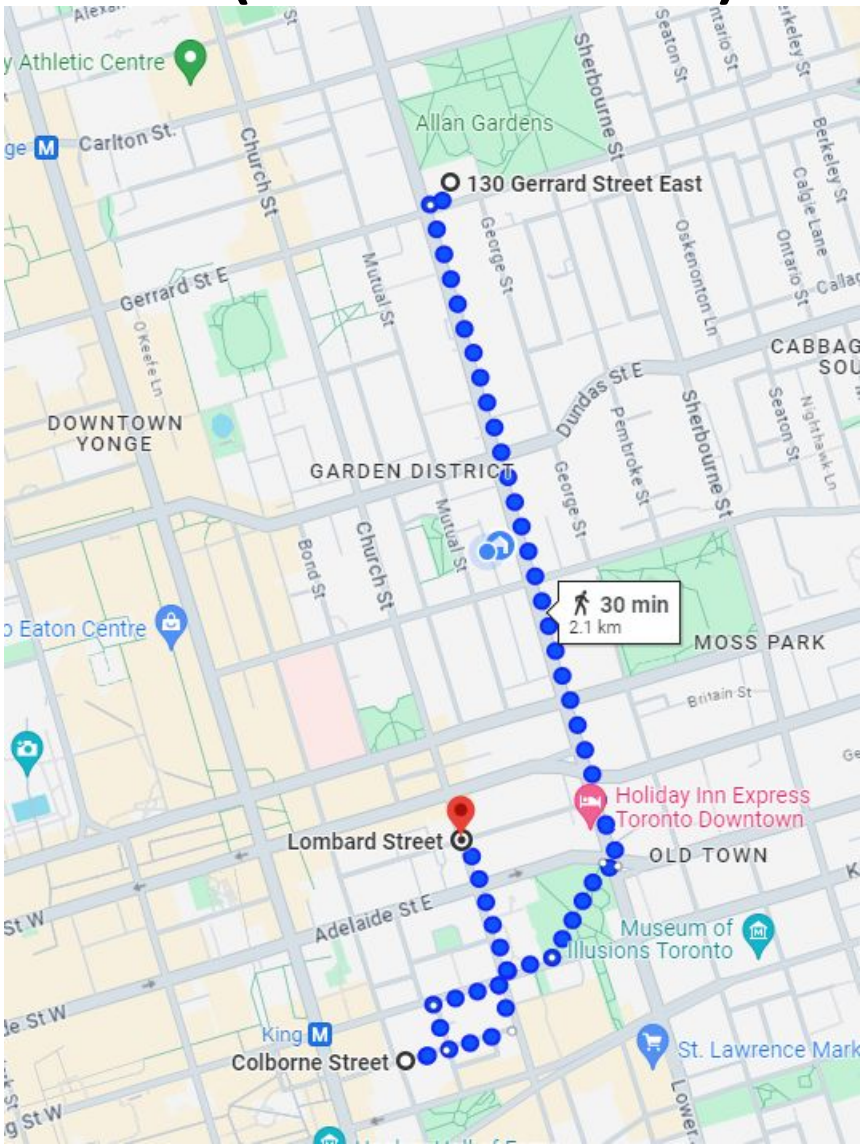


March Street Baptist Church (1832)

- 1832: Cholera Epidemic – 217 deaths in York
- 1834: York incorporated as the new City of Toronto
- 1837-1838: Upper Canada Rebellion in Toronto
- 1841: Act of Union creates the new political entity Province of Canada
- 1867: Union of three British North American colonies through Confederation: Canada (Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

March Street Baptist Church (1832)

- The street was known as March Street, later Stanley Street, now Lombard Street (North-Eastern corner of Lombard and Church Streets)
- The church bought the land and built the small chapel
- Included a baptistry
- Seating capacity 200 when crowded
- Pew rents
- 3 Sunday services – Sunday school 9 am, preaching and observance of the Lord's Supper 11 am, preaching at 3 pm and 6 pm

March Street Baptist Church (1832)

- March Street became known as one of the rougher parts of town with inhabitants making church services very difficult even requiring police officers to patrol the streets to keep the peace during evening worship services
- Split under John Eglinton Maxwell
  - Alexander Stewart is aged
  - Maxwell wanted the church to institute preaching rotation in a few place around the city and to belong to a Baptist association
  - Maxwell's split would meet at the Masonic Hall

March Street Baptist Church (1832)

- March Street Chapel stood empty for a time
  - The church had a bent toward contention and schism
  - Met for prayer meetings at a member's house on Queen Street West
  - Rented the chapel to other congregations
- The congregation on March Street re-organized in 1840 with William Hyatt Coombs as pastor, the previous congregations having become defunct
  - 1840: 13 individuals
  - After Coombs' first year, the congregation has to vote whether to re-engage him and they vote No
- William McMaster and Robert Alexander Fyfe were added to the committee to make enquiries about a suitable place to purchase

Robert Alexander Fyfe (1816-1878)

Robert Alexander Fyfe (1816-1878)

- “The father of our denomination in Canada”
- Principal of Canada Baptist College (Montreal) and Canadian Literary Institute (Woodstock ON)
- Canadian Baptist Missionary Society (1852)
- Temperance Reformation Society of Ontario (anti-alcohol)
- Opponent of clergy reserves (tracts of land reserved for the support of clergy of the Church of England (1/7th or 14% of the land of Upper and Lower Canada))
  - Opposed King’s College which became the University of Toronto and Upper Canada College as they would be Church of England
- Argued for closed communion table: baptized believers and sometimes members of a regular Baptist church-only

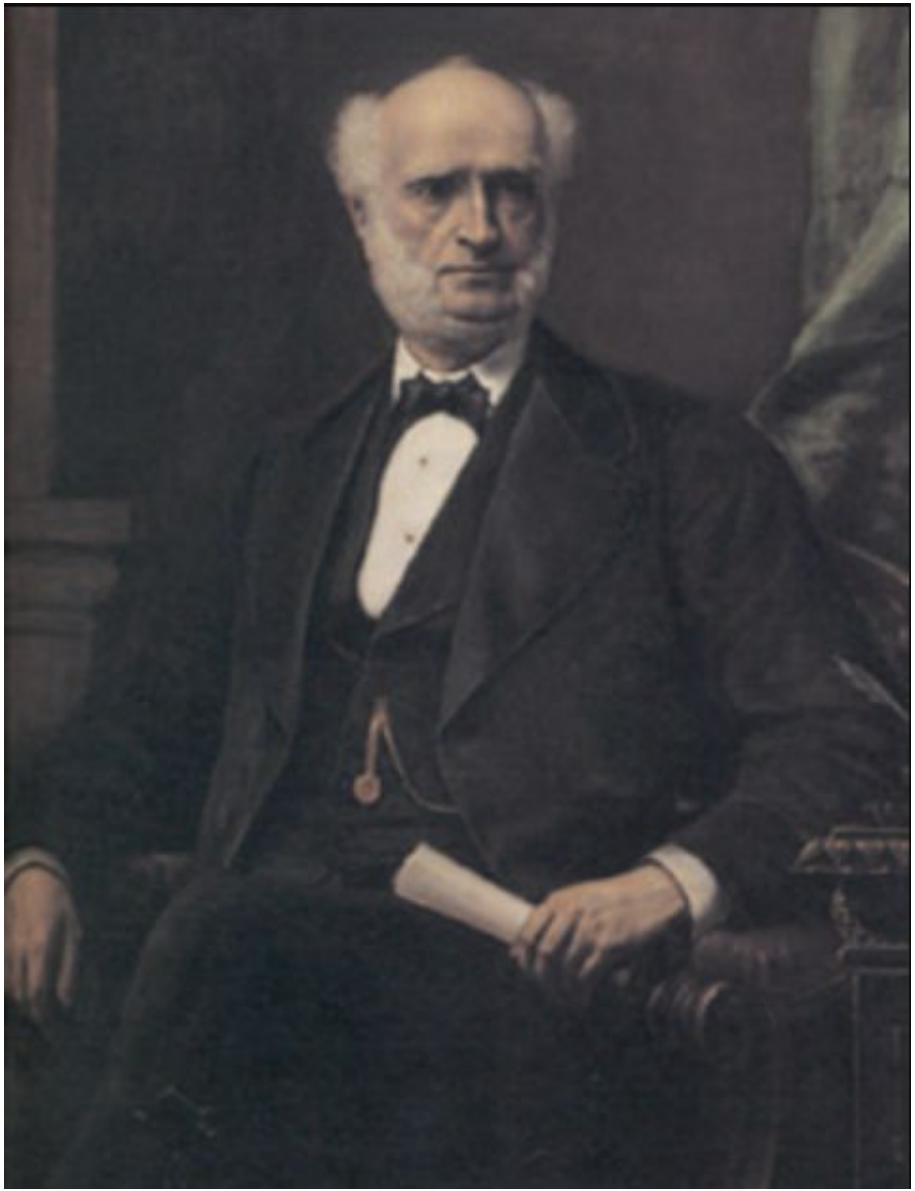
Robert Alexander Fyfe (1816-1878)

- Pastor 1844–1848 (March Street Baptist Church)
  - 1844: only 64 members (Toronto pop 25K). Secession in which “a large portion of the membership and half the wealth were scattered never again to be gathered” (R.A. Fyfe, 1875).
  - 1846: both his infant sons and his wife die during a period of a few months
  - 1847: insufficient funds by way of subscription to pay his salary
  - Move to Bond Street because of unsavoury location
- Pastor 1855–1860 (Bond Street Baptist Church)
  - Fought against Dispensationalism

Robert Alexander Fyfe (1816-1878)

- “It is in the highest degree improbably that the Baptists of Ontario will ever again be under the rule of a one-man influence at all comparable to that which Dr. Fyfe wielded so beneficently for a score of years.” (J.E. Wells)

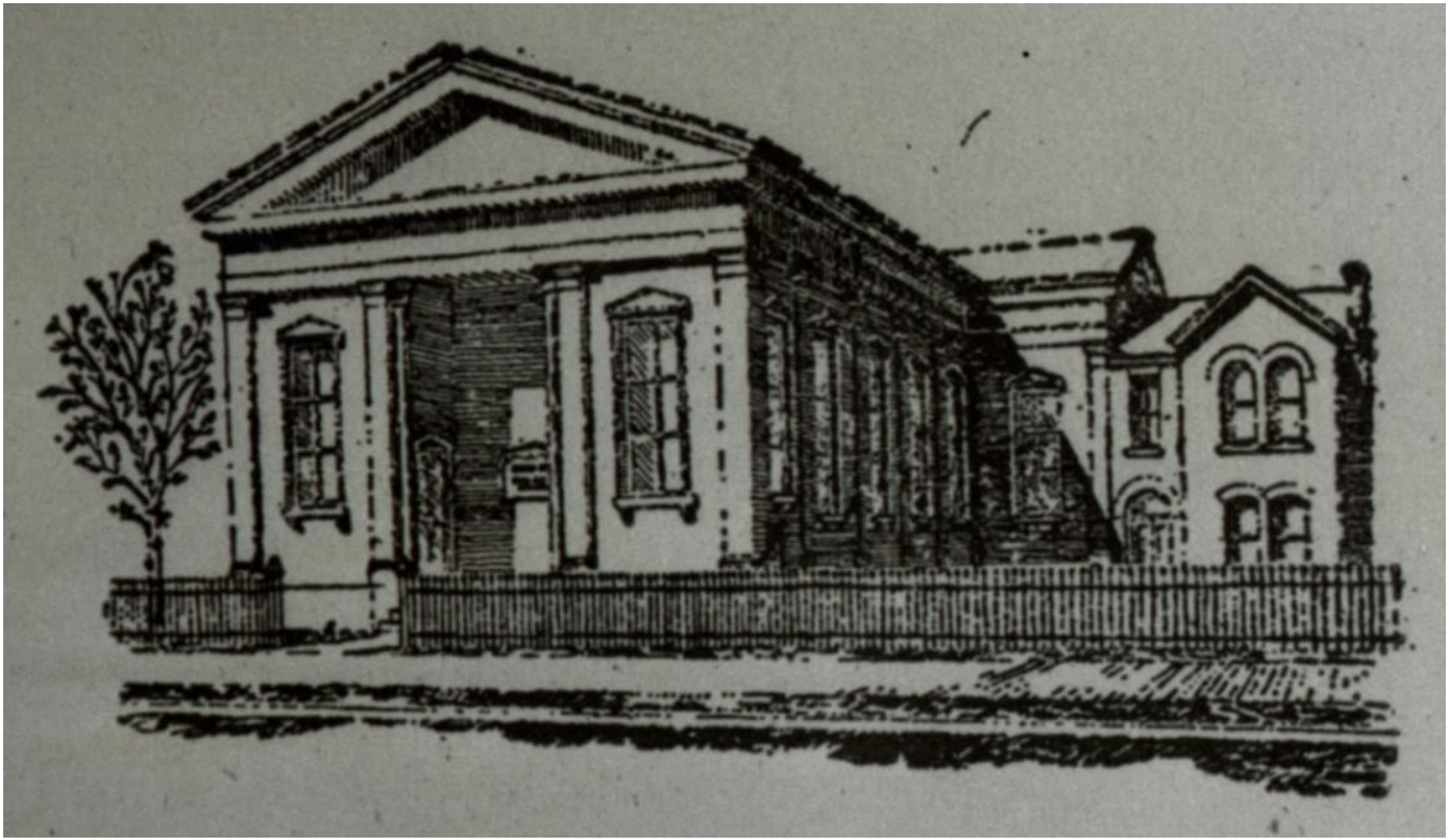
William McMaster (1811-1887)



William McMaster (1811-1887)

- United with March Street Baptist Church in 1848
- Immigrant from County Tyrone in Ulster, Ireland (now Northern Ireland) who arrived in Toronto in 1833
- Wholesaler of dry goods
- One of the richest men in Toronto by the 1850s
- Director of Bank of Montreal (1864-1867)
- Co-founder and founding President of Canadian Bank of Commerce (1867-1887) (now known as CIBC)
- Sat in the Senate from 1867-1887 as a Liberal
- Financed JSBC building, Beverley Street Baptist Church, and other Baptist churches
- Left his fortune to Baptist education
- Financed Toronto Baptist College on Bloor Street West ($1MM) and McMaster University in Hamilton
  - 1861: Donated $4,000 after CLI's building in Woodstock burned down

Bond Street Baptist Church (1848-1875)



Bond Street Baptist Church (1848-1875)

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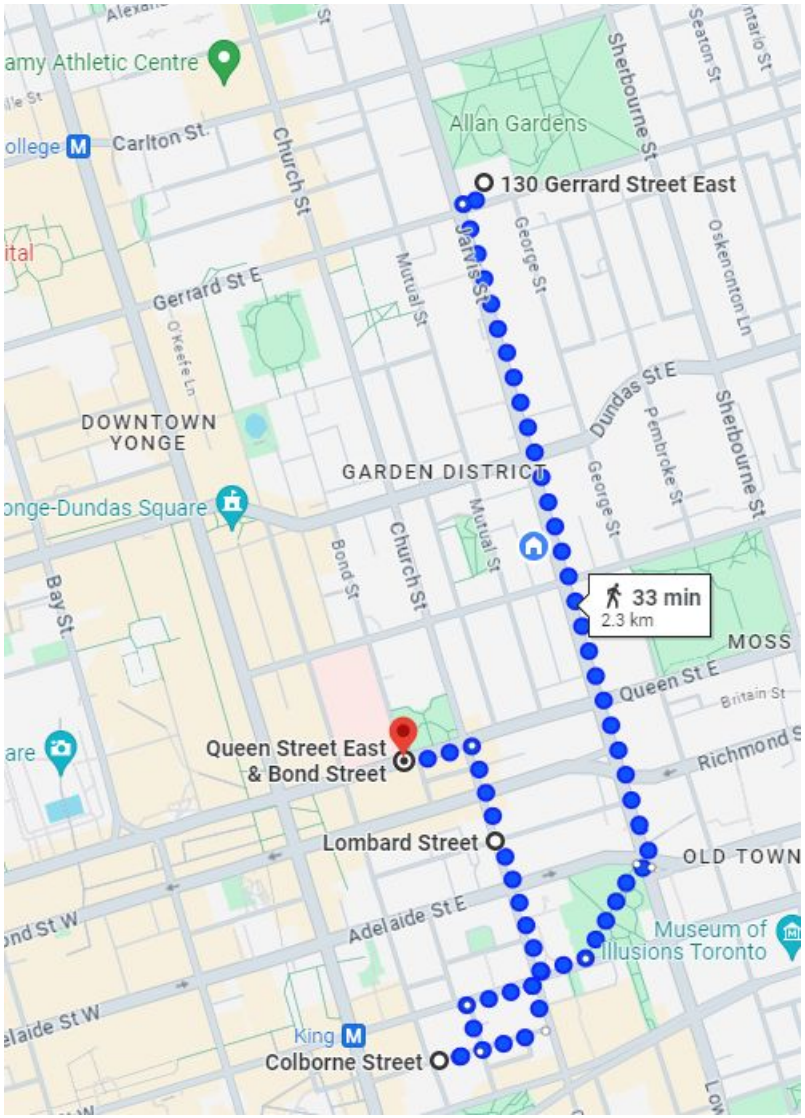


Bond Street Baptist Church

- Located on the property of the current St. Michael's Hospital on Bond Street, west side, between Queen & Shuter Streets
- Built by members of the earlier March Street Baptist grouping
- 1848: membership 100; 1855: 249
- Held Sunday morning services at 11 am, evening services at 6 pm and Sabbath school (Sunday school) at 2:30 pm in the afternoon
- Membership of 400 by the late 1860s
- Pastor (1848-1855) James Pyper argued in favour of believer's baptism
- Thomas Ford Caldicott (1803-1869) became a member in 1831 (Masonic Hall), a deacon in 1832, a lay preacher in 1832, ordained in 1834 (March Street Baptist church), and pastor of Bond Street Baptist Church from 1860-1869
  - Instituted "systematic beneficience" weekly offering system increasing receipts, clearing the church's debt and increasing its contributions to missions
  - Encouraged the planting of new churches

Bond Street Baptist Church

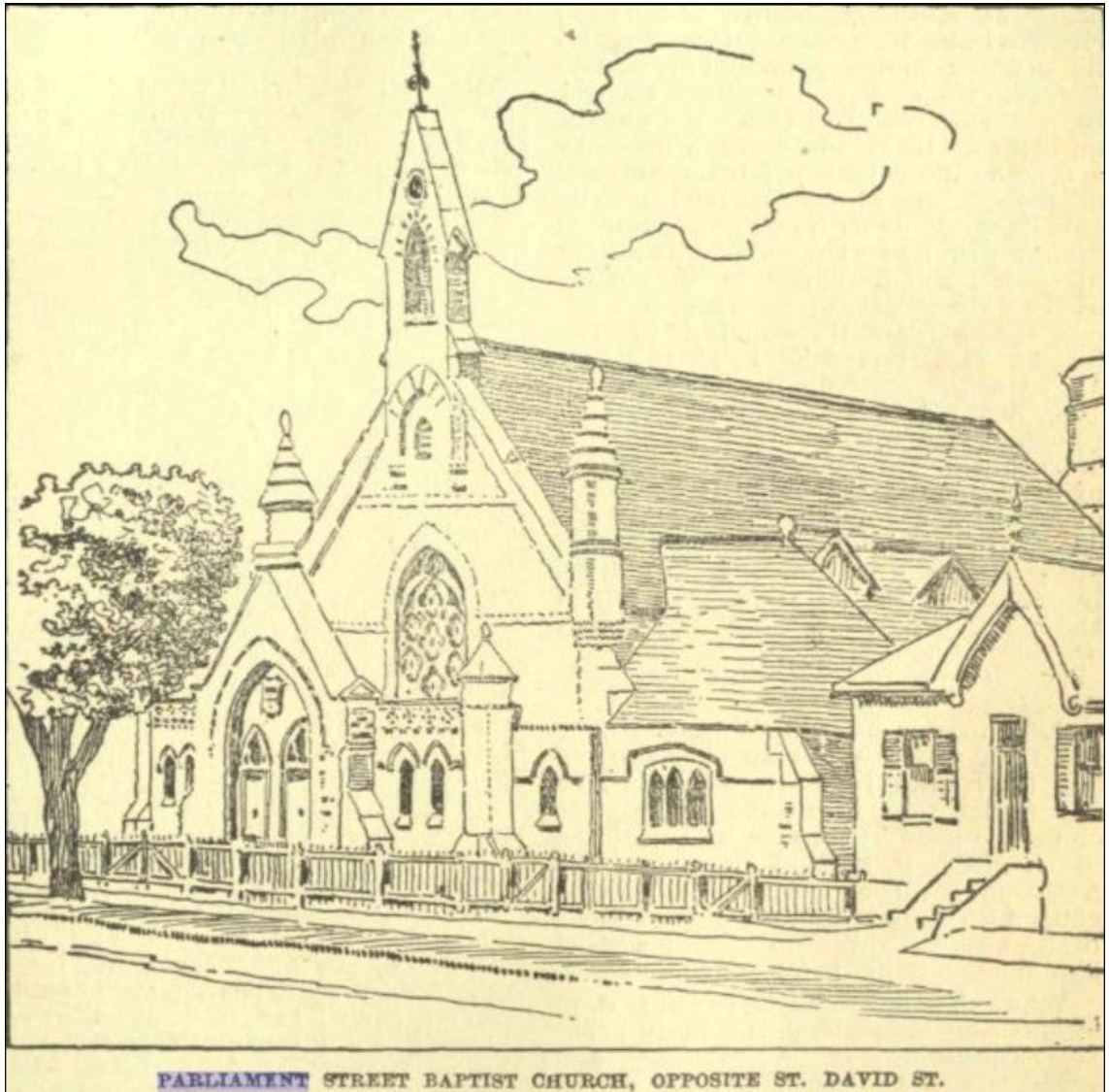
- 1866: Sponsored Alexander Street Baptist Church founded by 27 members from Bond Street Baptist Church
- In 1870, families of Bond Street Baptist Church living in Yorkville founded a church in 1870 with workers from Bond Street Baptist Church
  - 1870: A small chapel was built on Scollard Street
  - 1871: 26 church members requested letters of dismissal for the purpose of forming a new Baptist church at Yorkville
  - 1882: New building at the south-east corner of Bloor and Bay Streets (now the site of the Manufacturer's Life building) renamed Bloor Street Baptist Church and remained on that site until 1926
  - 1886: Ossington Avenue Baptist Church
  - 1911: What would become known as Mt. Pleasant Road Baptist Church
  - 1928: Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Bond Street Baptist Church

- 1871: Sponsored outreach of Parliament Street Baptist Church located on the corner of St. David Street
- 1872: Involvement in the work that became College Street Baptist Church
- Active in a work which was continued at JSBC which later became Beverley Street Baptist Church
  - 1880: Sponsored Beverley Street Baptist Church (74 Beverley Street in between Spadina and University Aves near AGO)
  - Funded by William McMaster
  - Now Toronto Chinese Baptist Church

Beverley Street Baptist Church (1880)

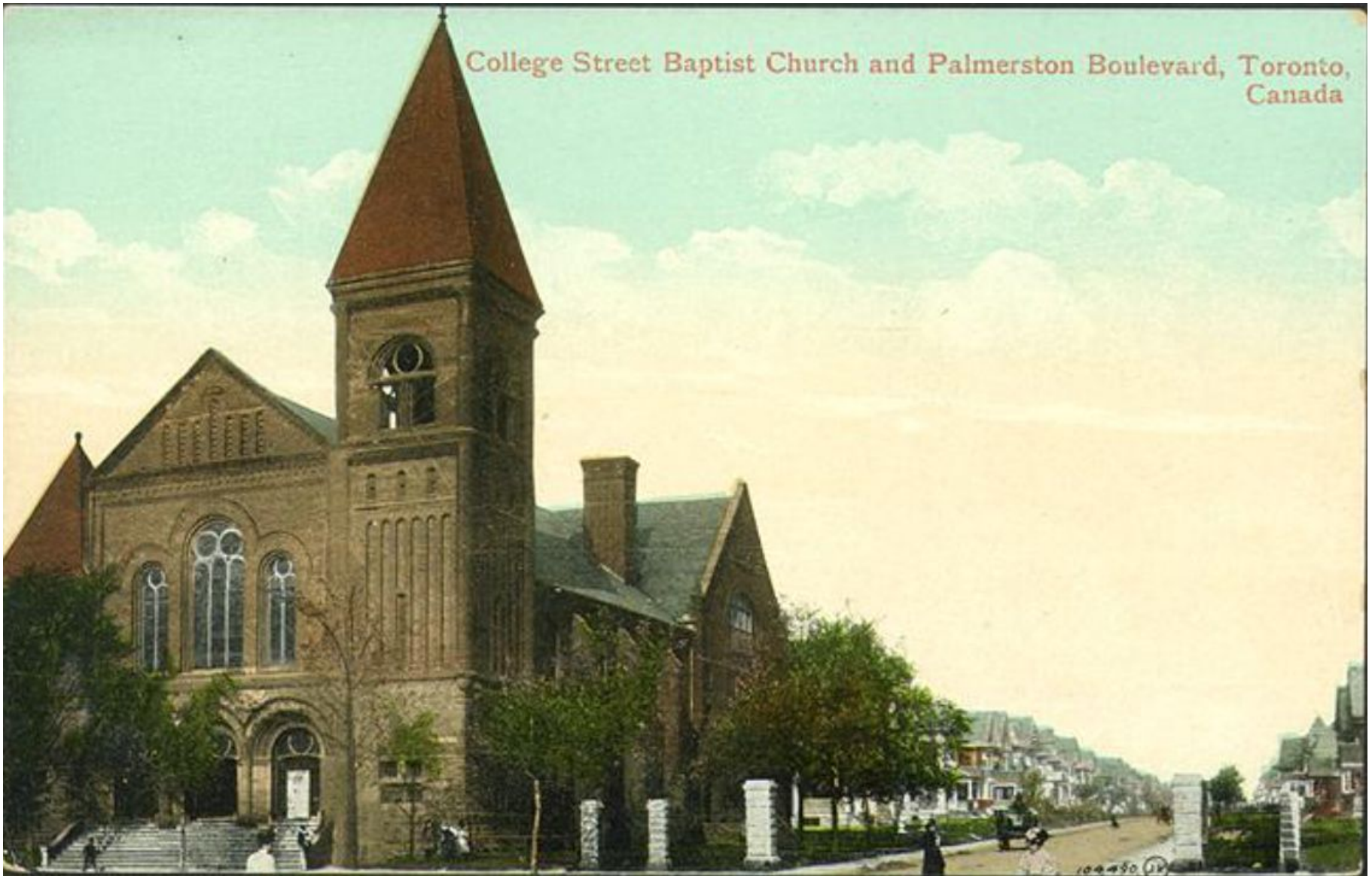
Parliament Street Baptist Church (1871)



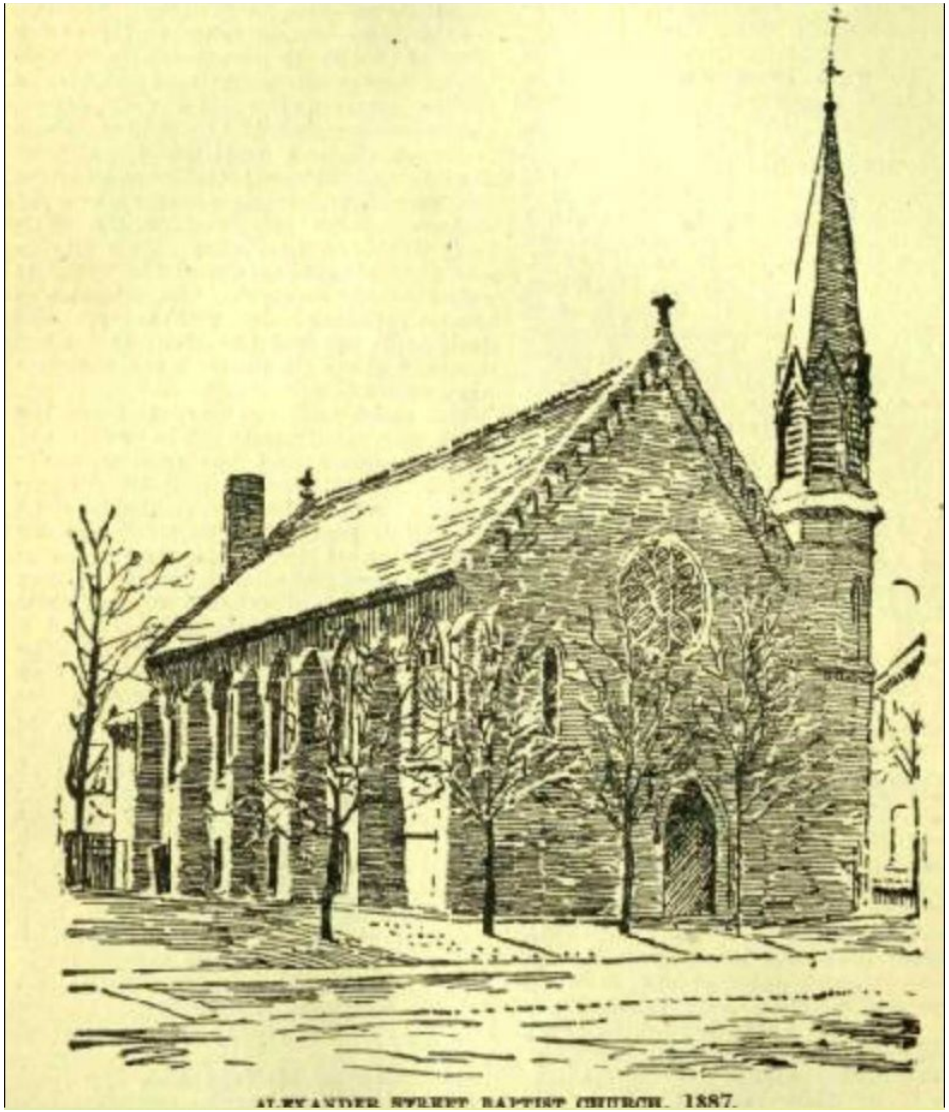
PARLIAMENT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, OPPOSITE ST. DAVID ST.

Bloor Street Baptist Church (1882)

College Street Baptist Church (1889)



Alexander Street Baptist Church (1866)



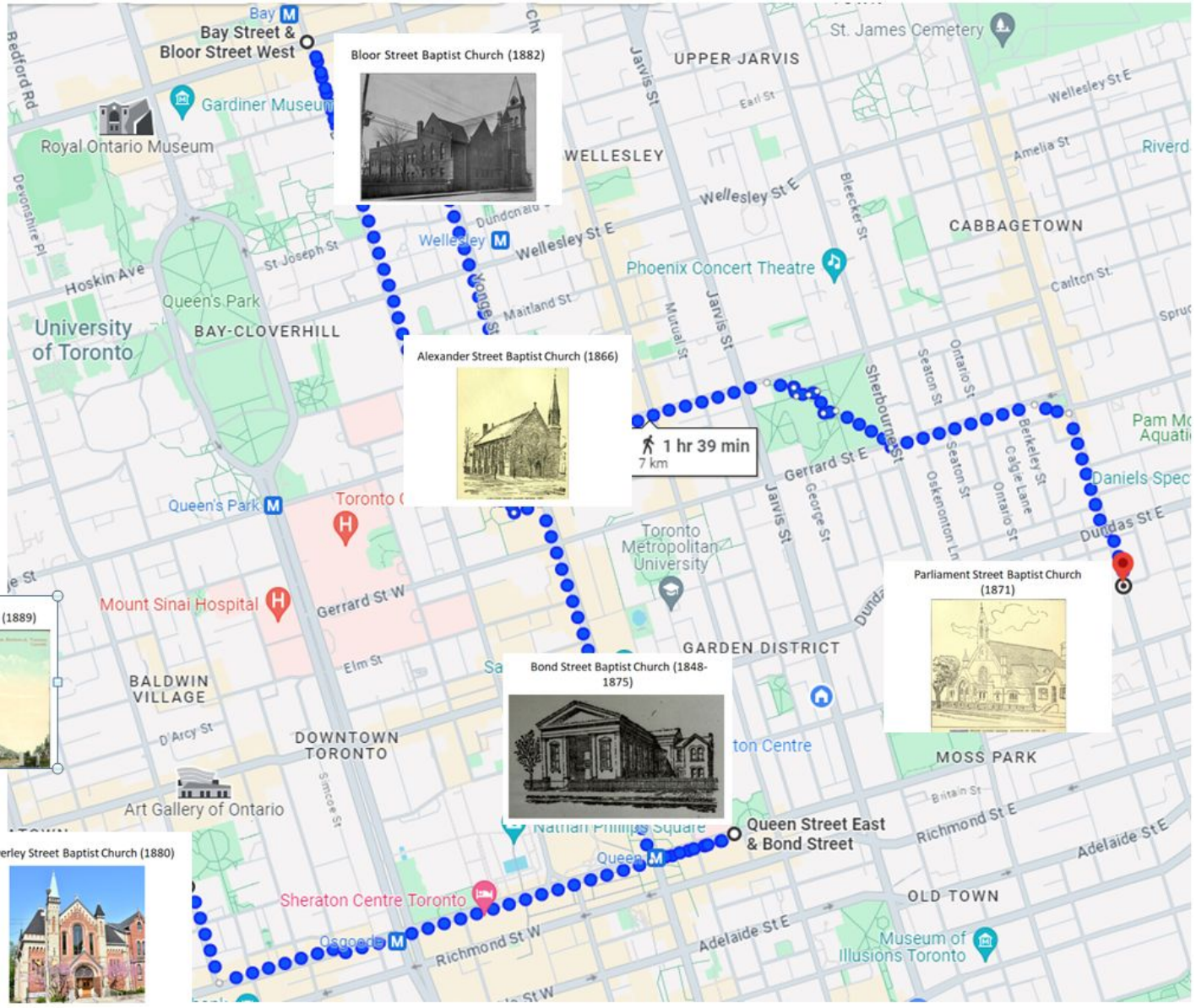
Alexander Street Baptist Church (1866)

- Alexander Street was the first congregation of what was to be many Baptist congregations formed in the next 40–50 years within Toronto from the original Bond Street congregation
- 1866: 14 members requested letters of dismissal from Bond Street Baptist Church for the purpose of uniting with others in the foundation of Alexander Street Baptist Church
- 1867: Build chapel on the South side of Alexander Street between Yonge and Church Streets
- Thomas Lailey, owner of a wholesale clothing business, financed the $10,500 cost of construction and was a major contributor to its operating expenses
- Sponsored a mission school outreach at Dovercourt Road Baptist Church in 1879 and organized as a congregation in 1881
- Outreach was also begun at 148 Tecumseth Street south (west of Queen and Bathurst streets) (also called Memorial Baptist Church), which is today occupied by the Ukrainian Baptist Church congregation
- In 1888 the Alexander Street congregation experienced growth and decided to relocate and build a new church at Jarvis and Wellesley Streets. The new church building opened in 1889 and was renamed Immanuel Baptist Church

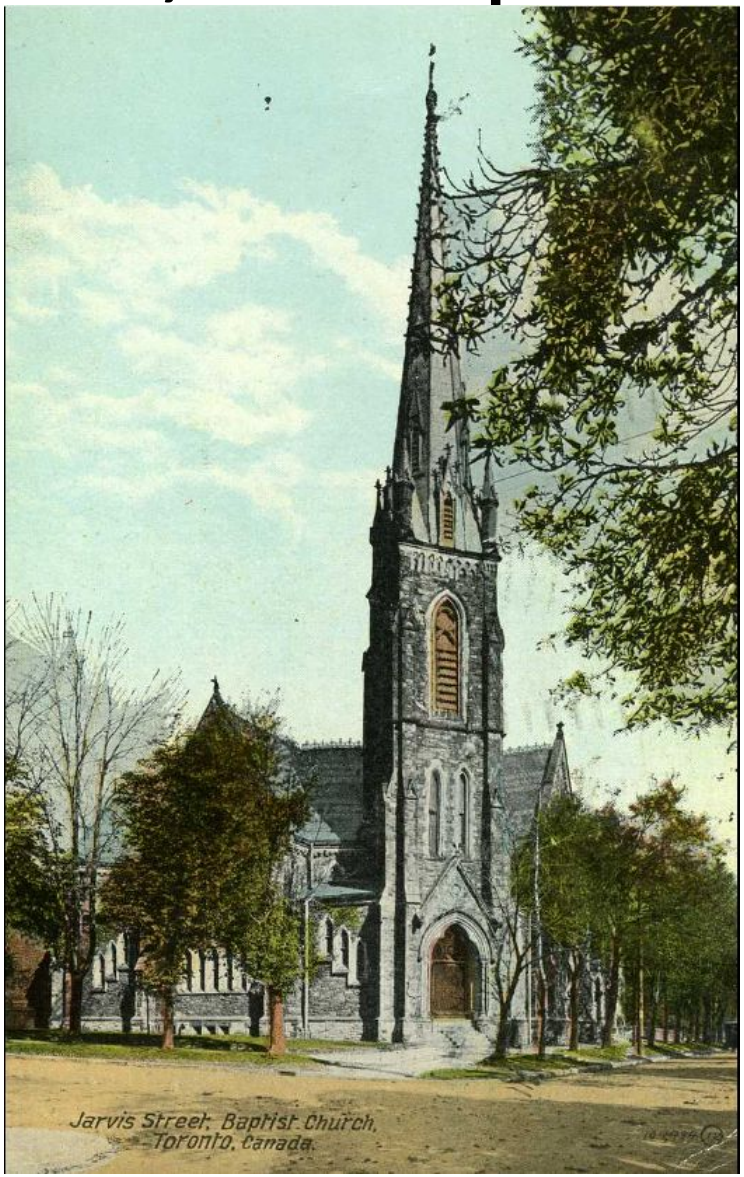
Conclusion on Bond Street Baptist Church

- “The Bond Street church, notwithstanding the repeated drafts made upon her to form other churches, has nearly doubled her membership in the last six years, and the Alexander Street church, notwithstanding the drafts made upon her, has more than doubled her communicants during the same period. And the increase of membership has been proportionately yet more rapid in the Yorkville, Parliament Street, and College Street churches, which have all been formed within the past six years.” (R.A. Fyfe, 1875)

Bond Street Baptist Church



JSBC, 1917 postcard



Jarvis Street Baptist Church (1875)

- “A larger, more convenient and more beautiful house of worship where you will have greater facilities for doing your work for God.” (R.A. Fyfe, 1875)
- Jarvis Street Baptist Church erected 1875
  - Cost of land $8,500
  - At the time of construction it was very likely one of the tallest buildings in the area
  - 1875: Six Baptist churches in Toronto (R.A. Fyfe, 1875)
  - 1875: Membership of 519 and income > $7,000
- Large donation from Senator and Banker William McMaster
- Alexander Mackenzie (1822-1892) , 2nd prime minister of Canada (1873-1878) and Leader of the Liberal Party (1873-1880) was a member (1879-1892)
- Protected under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act since 1999

T.T. Shields (1873-1955)

T.T. Shields (1873-1955)

- Thomas Todhunter Shields pastor from 1910-1955 (his death)
  - “Canadian Spurgeon”
  - Encompassed 1/3 of the congregation’s history to that point
- Communion
  - 1911: Individual cups replaces common cup
  - 1912: Monthly communion alternating b/w evening and morning services replaces weekly communion
- 1921 split resulting in Park Road Baptist Church with 341 members of 1,271 petitioning for letters of dismissal

T.T. Shields (1873-1955)

- 1922: 3 in person prayer meetings per week
- Owned radio station CJBC from 1925 to 1943
  - 2 hour Sunday evening radio broadcast
  - Cost of radio broadcasting
- Liberalism at The Canadian Baptist and McMaster University, Toronto
- 1926 Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec convention in Toronto: T. T. Shields banned from future conventions
  - Issue of Modernism at McMaster University: liberal Professor L.H. Marshall
  - 1919 Convention: liberal McMaster professor I.G. Matthews
- 1927 Convention in Toronto: Pro-McMaster progressives disenfranchise JSBC from the convention

T.T. Shields (1873-1955)

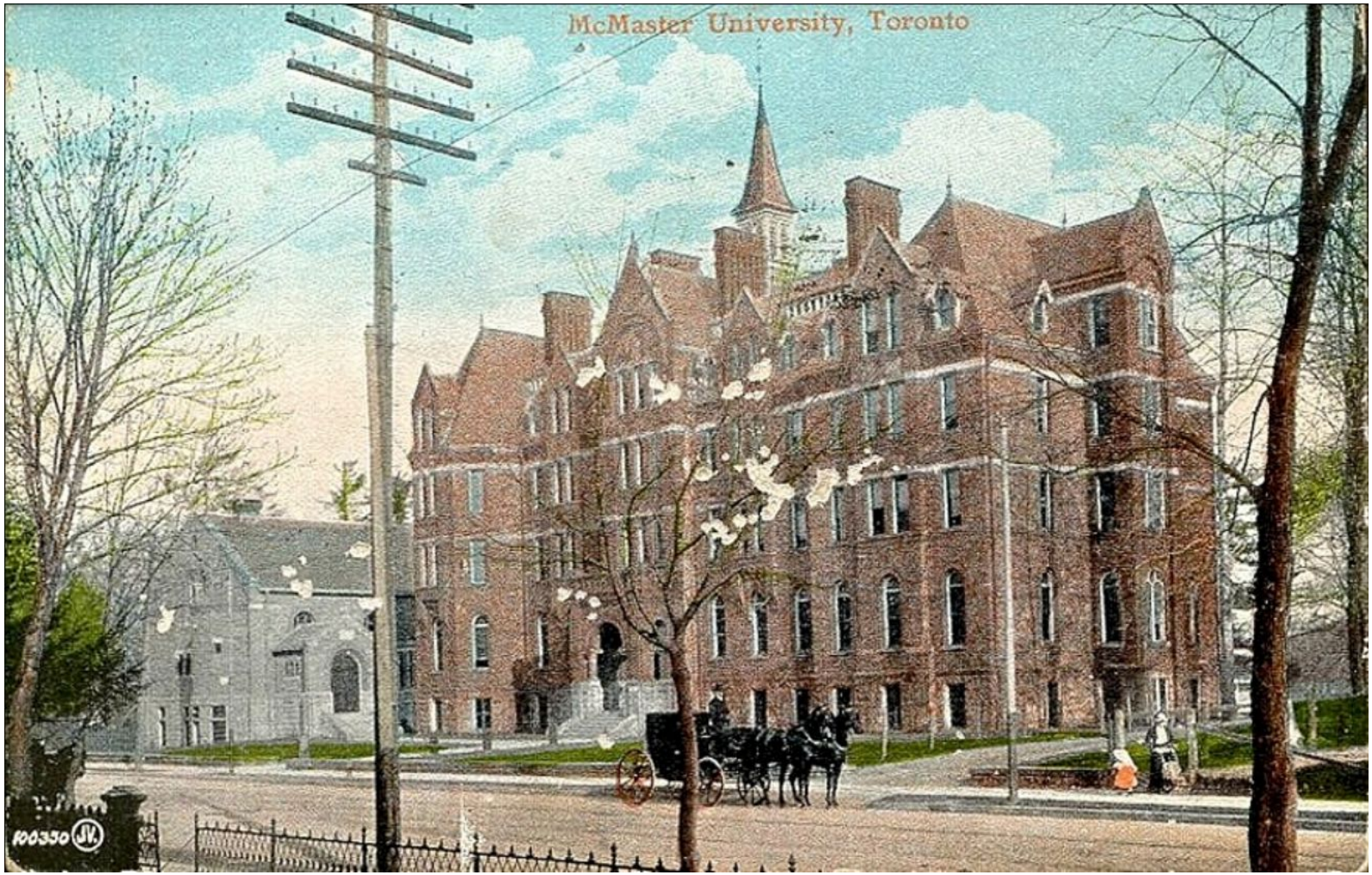
- 1938 Fire
  - Blaze started in the wiring behind the wall of the organ
  - T.T. Shields rebuilt
  - Services held in Massey Hall
  - Mid-week meetings at Cooke's Presbyterian Church (N-W corner of Queen Street East and Mutual Street)
  - Flat-roofed extension of the church built (Greenway Chapel)
  - Building re-opened in 1939

Toronto Baptist Seminary (1927)

Toronto Baptist Seminary (1927)

- Canada Baptist College/The Academy, Montreal (1836-1849)
  - R.A. Fyfe was Interim Principal of Canada Baptist College
- Canadian Literary Institute, Woodstock ON (1857/60)
  - Educate Baptists and train young men to minister in Baptist churches
  - R.A. Fyfe was Principal from 1860-1878
  - Before William Boyd Steward became pastor of Bond Street Baptist Church (1869-1872) he served as Professor of Classics, Greek, and Latin
  - 1881: Faculty of Theology transferred to Toronto Baptist College
- Toronto Baptist College/McMaster Hall (1881)
  - Pastor John Castle (1873–1881) and William McMaster wanted to move the theological department of CLI to Toronto
  - 1881: John Harvard Castle was President and first Principal
  - McMaster donated the site of Bloor Street, $100,000 plus $14,500 annually plus $900,000 in his will
  - McMaster University/McMaster Hall, Toronto (1887)
- McMaster University in Hamilton (1927/30)
- Toronto Baptist Seminary (1927)

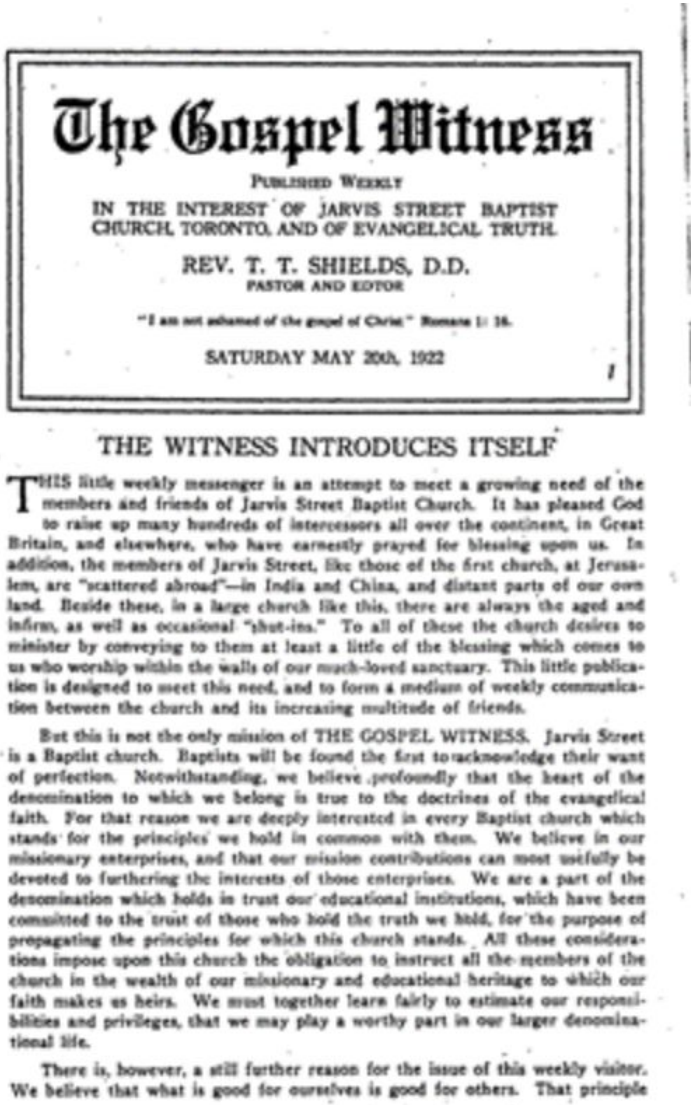
Toronto Baptist College (now Royal Conservatory of Music)



Toronto Baptist Seminary (1927)

- Founded by T. T. Shields due to Modernism at McMaster University and the 1926 BCOQ convention
- Based upon Charles Spurgeon's Pastor's College
- Closed for WWII (1939-1943)
- One of first students was H. C. Slade, Pastor of JSBC from 1955–1974
- Central Baptist Seminary, Toronto (1948)
  - W. Gordon Brown (1904-1979)
  - Heritage College & Seminary, Cambridge ON
    - 1993 merger of Central Baptist Seminary (Toronto) with London Baptist Bible College and Seminary

Gospel Witness (1922)



The Gospel Witness

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

IN THE INTEREST OF JARVIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, TORONTO, AND OF EVANGELICAL TRUTH.

REV. T. T. SHIELDS, D.D.
PASTOR AND EDITOR

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." Romans 1: 16.

SATURDAY MAY 20th, 1922

1

THE WITNESS INTRODUCES ITSELF

THIS little weekly messenger is an attempt to meet a growing need of the members and friends of Jarvis Street Baptist Church. It has pleased God to raise up many hundreds of intercessors all over the continent, in Great Britain, and elsewhere, who have earnestly prayed for blessing upon us. In addition, the members of Jarvis Street, like those of the first church, at Jerusalem, are "scattered abroad"—in India and China, and distant parts of our own land. Beside these, in a large church like this, there are always the aged and infirm, as well as occasional "shut-ins." To all of these the church desires to minister by conveying to them at least a little of the blessing which comes to us who worship within the walls of our much-loved sanctuary. This little publication is designed to meet this need, and to form a medium of weekly communication between the church and its increasing multitude of friends.

But this is not the only mission of THE GOSPEL WITNESS. Jarvis Street is a Baptist church. Baptists will be found the first to acknowledge their want of perfection. Notwithstanding, we believe profoundly that the heart of the denomination to which we belong is true to the doctrines of the evangelical faith. For that reason we are deeply interested in every Baptist church which stands for the principles we hold in common with them. We believe in our missionary enterprises, and that our mission contributions can most usefully be devoted to furthering the interests of those enterprises. We are a part of the denomination which holds in trust our educational institutions, which have been committed to the trust of those who hold the truth we hold, for the purpose of propagating the principles for which this church stands. All these considerations impose upon this church the obligation to instruct all the members of the church in the wealth of our missionary and educational heritage to which our faith makes us heirs. We must together learn fairly to estimate our responsibilities and privileges, that we may play a worthy part in our larger denominational life.

There is, however, a still further reason for the issue of this weekly visitor. We believe that what is good for ourselves is good for others. That principle

Gospel Witness (1922)

- Toronto Christian Observer (1853)
- Canadian Baptist Register
- The Canadian Baptist (1882)
  - R.A. Fyfe purchases Christian Messenger (begun in 1854) and renamed it The Canadian Baptist in 1860
  - The Canadian Baptist Magazine and Missionary Register
  - R.A. Fyfe, editor (1837-1841)
  - 1871: William Boyd Steward Pastor of Bond Street Baptist Church (1869-1872) was joint proprietor and editor
- Gospel Witness (1922)
  - 8 page weekly during T. T. Shields' lifetime
  - Most of the writing by its founder T. T. Shields
  - Sermons provided content
  - Became an alternative to The Canadian Baptist
- Barnabas (Sovereign Grace Fellowship of Canada)

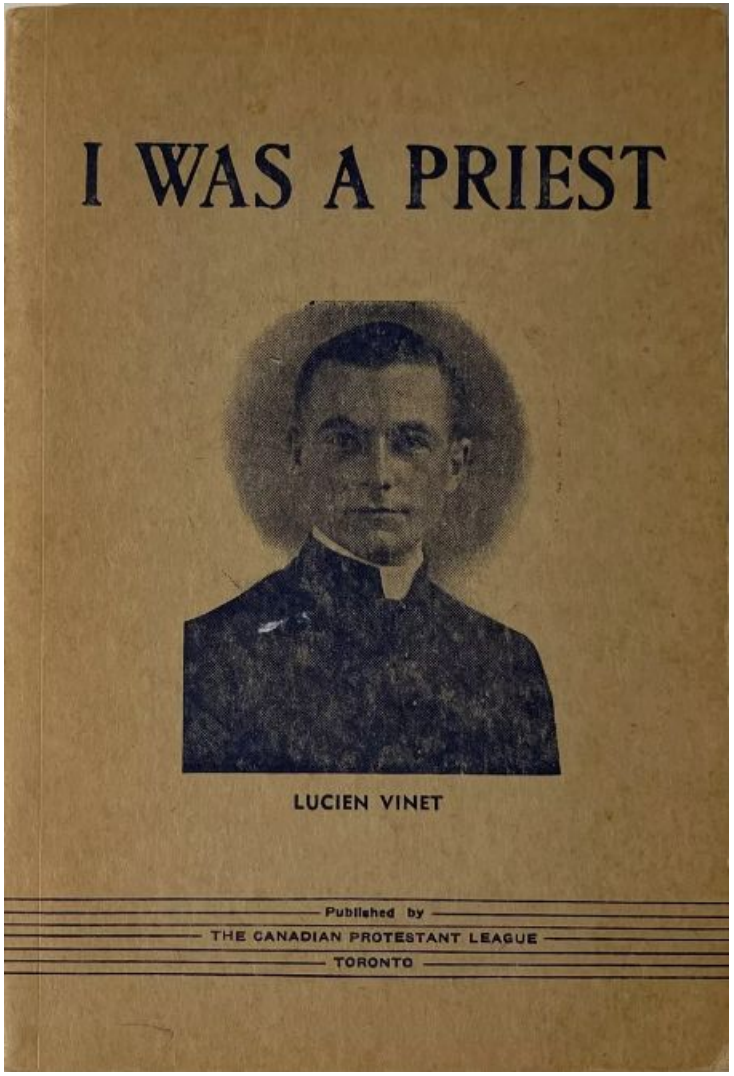
Sovereign Grace Fellowship of Canada

- Regular Baptists of Canada
- Canada Baptist Union (1844)
  - First annual meeting at March Street Baptist Church
  - Opposed University and Clergy Reserves for the Church of England
- “Regular Baptist Union”
- Baptist Union of Canada (1880)
  - First meeting at JSBC
- Baptists Convention of Ontario and Quebec (1888)
  - First meeting at JSBC
- Union of Regular Baptist Churches (1927)
- Sovereign Grace Fellowship of Canada (1983)
  - Founded by William Payne, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Burlington ON

Union of Regular Baptist Churches (1927)

- Founded due to BCOQ banning T. T. Shields from future conventions
- T. T. Shields president
- Membership of 30 churches and representation from 70 others
- Missionary work: T. T. Shields founds the Regular Baptist Missionary and Education Society of Canada

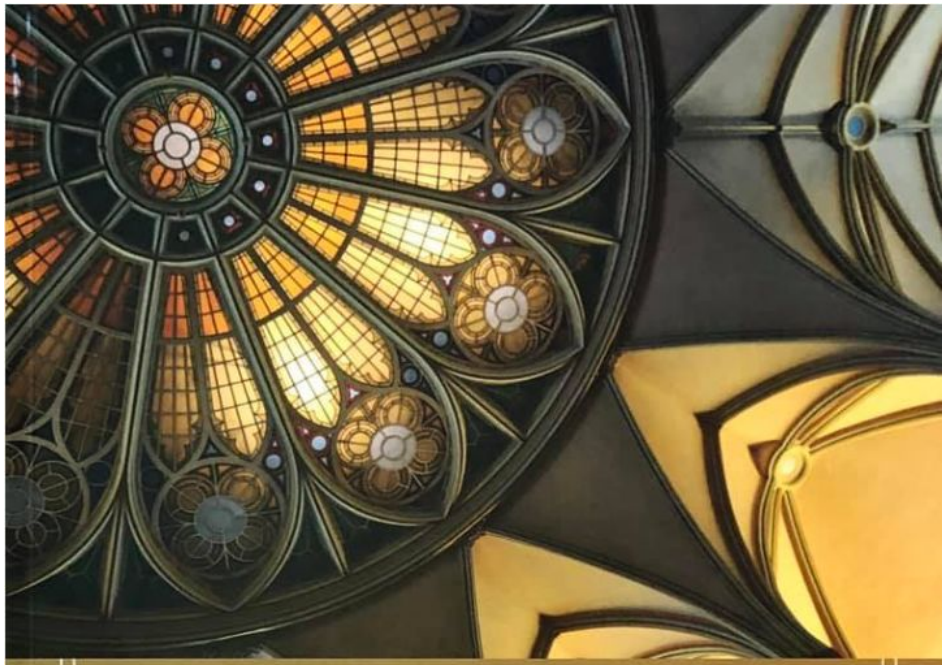
Canadian Protestant League (1941)



Canadian Protestant League (1941)

- 1. The preservation, maintenance, and assertion of the traditional, civil, and religious liberties of British subjects
- 2. To practice, defend, maintain, and propagate the great doctrines of the Protestant Reformation
- 3. In contradistinction to, and in defence against, the supreme authority, falsely claimed by the Roman Catholic Church; and also against the Roman Church's political methods of propagating its tenets and of extending and exercising this illegitimate authority
- 1941: Founded during WWII when RC mass celebrated on Parliament Hill
- Counter growing Catholic influence in Canada and resists special concessions to the RC church
- T. T. Shields president

Learning more



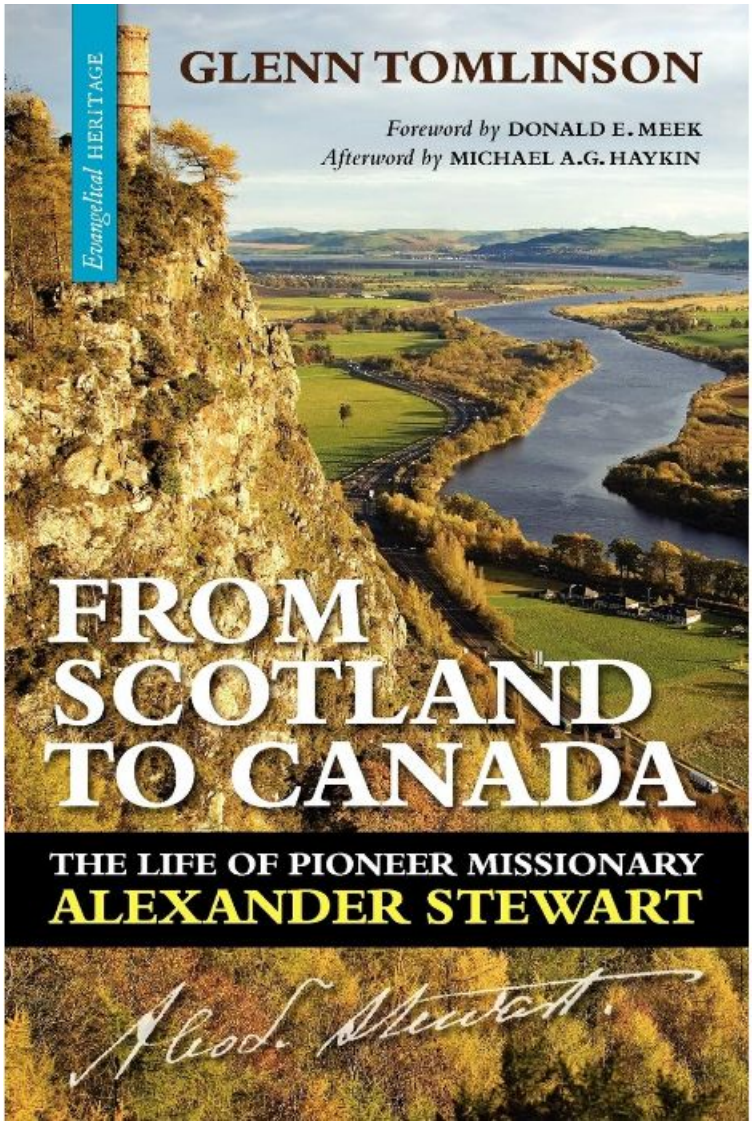
Set *for* the Defense
of the Gospel:
A Bicentennial History *of*
Jarvis Street Baptist Church,
1818–2018

*

EDITED BY

MICHAEL A.G. HAYKIN
with ROY M. PAUL

Learning more



Learning more

- “From strength to strength" : a pictorial history of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, 1818-1993, 1993, Glenn V. Tomlinson and Andrew M. Fountain, eds. (61 pgs)
- Shields of Canada – T. T. Shields (1873-1955) by Leslie K. Tarr (1967)
- By His Grace To His Glory – 60 Years of Ministry – Toronto Baptist Seminary and Bible College – 1927-1987 (1987)

Learning more

- Robert Alexander Fyfe
  - A Forty Years' Survey from Bond Street Pulpit by R.A. Fyfe (1876)
  - Life and Labors of Robert Alex. Fyfe, D.D., by J.E. Wells, M.A. (1885)
  - Robert Alexander Fyfe – His Contemporaries and His Influence by Theo T. Gibson (1988)